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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2014, at 2 p.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2014

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father, You promised that those who passionately seek You will find You. Deliver us from distractions that hinder our pursuit of You, as You enable us to experience Your presence today.

Lord, guard the hearts and minds of our Senators with Your peace, guiding them with Your power. Draw them into intimacy with You, helping them to remember that nothing can separate them from Your love. Rescue them from misplaced priorities that major in minors and minor in majors. Bring their thoughts and actions into captivity to Your will.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 14, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3474. At 11:15 a.m. there will be up to five rollcall votes in relation to several nominations. Following those votes the time until 5:15 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 5:15 p.m. there will be another series of rollcall votes on confirmation of three district judges and on adoption of the motion to proceed to the tax extenders legislative vehicle.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning marks 321 days since this body passed commonsense immigration reform. For 321 days the Republican-controlled House of Representatives has done absolutely nothing to address our Nation's problems dealing with our broken immigration system. It is a system that is broken and needs to be fixed. It cannot be fixed on a piecemeal basis. It needs comprehensive immigration reform.

To the Republican extremists in the House, the time went by like that. To them, 321 days does not seem like a big deal. But outside of the Capitol, where we are dealing with people's lives, those 321 days felt like a lifetime. To American families forced to live in the shadows, each one of those days brings the dread of discovery and being torn away from their loved ones. Undocumented immigrants have lived in fear for the last 46 weeks, worrying whether they will have to leave the country they call home. For the past 10½ months children have lost their parents from government action—all while House Republicans have twiddled their thumbs.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Enough is enough. It is time for the House Republicans to act. They have wasted far too much time already failing to consider a bill that the Senate considered, and passed in less than 2 months.

A year ago the Senate Judiciary Committee, under Chairman LEAHY's leadership, was in the middle of marking up the commonsense immigration reform. After 2 weeks of consideration, what did they do? A bipartisan bill was reported out of that committee. Within a month the Senate passed immigration reform and sent it to the House of Representatives. It was a good start. It was really good. But in our system of government, what we did here will have absolutely no meaning unless the House takes it up. We were able to move on immigration reform quickly because both Senate Democrats and Senate Republicans understood the need to fix a broken system.

What is the House Republicans' excuse? Why are they doing this? What are they achieving by dragging their feet on immigration reform? They claim to be working on things—they say jobs, they say legislation to reduce the debt. If they are really interested in reducing the debt, pass this bill. It is \$1 trillion to reduce our debt—\$1 trillion. What are they doing over there? Day after day, investigations—they investigate everything and accomplish nothing.

The fact is that the Senate-passed immigration bill reduces the deficit and spurs the economy more than the House-passed bills awaiting Senate action combined. I repeat: \$1 trillion. The immigration legislation passed by the Senate reduces the deficit more than all the bills passed by the House that are currently awaiting action in the Senate.

So it is no wonder that even pro-Republican organizations are calling on Speaker BOEHNER to stop wasting time. Earlier this week we heard Tom Donohue, the president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, say that it is in the Republicans' best interests to pass immigration reform. He said unless the House passes immigration reform this year, Republicans shouldn't even bother running in 2016. So that is what he said, and it is probably true.

Politics should not be the only reason the House passes this bill. Immigration reform is far more important than any election-year politicking. Immigration reform is about families and communities.

The DREAM Act is a perfect example. In September 2010, I was in the midst of what some considered a tough re-election campaign when I helped champion Senator DURBIN's DREAM Act. Though it was eventually blocked by a Republican filibuster, I did my best to pass the DREAM Act, even as some said it would cost me the election. As everyone knows by this time, the President, as he said in his State of the Union Address—and he did this last Congress and he is doing it this Con-

gress—because we are doing virtually nothing here in the Senate, he decided to do something administratively. That is why we have deferred status for these young men and women who want to go into the military, finish their education, and this is the only place they have ever known as home.

The bill that passed here is common sense. Eleven million people—we cannot fiscally deport 11 million people. We cannot physically do it. It just will not work. That is why the legislation that was crafted here on a bipartisan basis is fair to everyone. What it says is that if this is your home and you have improper papers, we will give you some time to get those adjusted. It is going to take some time. You are not going to go to the front of the line; you are going to go to the back of the line. You are going to have to pay taxes. You are going to have to work. You are going to have to stay out of trouble and learn English. It would take about a dozen years to have your status adjusted, but at least during that period of time you can come out of the shadows.

Recently, though, the House Judiciary Committee chairman appeared on a Sunday news show and tried very, very unsuccessfully to justify his party's inaction. His reasoning as to why the House is dragging its heels? Republicans claim President Obama cannot be trusted to enforce immigration law. So what Republicans are really saying is that they will not act on immigration reform unless there are more deportations, more families torn apart. That does not make a lot of sense to most people. In a nutshell, it is the House immigration platform.

Why work to help undocumented immigrants get right with the law? Why do that? Because it is good for the country. It is fair. And, as I have indicated, it is good monetarily for this country. But what the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee said on one of those Sunday shows is in keeping with what they have done. It is hard to comprehend.

I guess that is what we have learned to expect from a House Republican conference whose immigration policy is dictated by the likes of Congressman STEVEN KING. Remember him, Mr. President? He is the Congressman who, instead of permitting immigrants to enlist in the military and earn citizenship, would rather send them "on a bus back to Tijuana." That is a quote from him. Congressman KING also claimed that for every hard-working undocumented student, there are 100 more working as drug mules with "calves the size of cantaloupes because they're hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the desert."

The fact of the matter is that these men and women, with their families, are our neighbors, our classmates, our colleagues. They are here for a lot of different reasons. They have overstayed their visas. Some were brought here illegally. But we have to deal with

this issue. So many of them are like Astrid Silva, who is one of the DREAMers. She was 4 years old, a little girl in a boat coming across the Rio Grande River. She had her Rosary beads and a little doll and her mom. Nevada is the only place she has ever known as home. Because she was so frightened, she was afraid to go anywhere.

This is the right thing to do. We need to move forward on comprehensive immigration reform, and we can only do that if the Republicans in the House, led by Speaker BOEHNER, do the right thing. It is very important. I urge the House to stop wasting time and bring immigration reform to a vote. Give the American people the assurance that we are working to finally mend our broken immigration system and give families the opportunity to come forward and work toward legal status. It really is the right thing to do.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

POLICE WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week we recognize National Police Week. National Police Week is a time to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the men and women in Federal, State, and local law enforcement across our Nation. Law enforcement is one of our Nation's highest callings, as brave peace officers put themselves on the line to defend the lives, safety and property of their neighbors. Therefore, it is entirely appropriate that we pause this week and throughout the year to thank them for their service.

The Nation's capital is host to thousands of police officers who have come to celebrate National Police Week with their fellow officers. No one but another peacekeeper or their families can truly grasp the duty of defending their communities. No one but another peacekeeper can truly know the joys of camaraderie and the sorrows of deep loss that each one has experienced.

I want to especially recognize the many men and women of Kentucky law enforcement. Many of them have traveled to Washington this week, and I will have the pleasure of meeting with some of Kentucky's finest and their families later today, including the Ellis family and the Shaw family.

I am personally grateful to them for bravely risking their lives in our defense. Sadly, this occasion of National